

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE STUDENT BODY OF VOL. 37 AVILA COLLEGE, KANSAS CITY, MO., JANUARY, 1967

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Key Ceremony - '66

With the close of the first semester and the approach of the Christmas season, Avila's traditional Key Ceremony and Concert of Sacred Music was held at St. Thomas More Church, Sunday, December 11th. It was a day of importance for three reasons; not only was it a day for the presentation of keys to the graduating seniors, and for the performance of the combined chorus from Rockhurst and Avila, but more significantly, Sunday marked the honoring of four persons who have greatly contributed to the growth of Avila.

MR. GEORGE BRYDE, a member of the staff for many years and presently head of the department of Philosophy and Theology, was given the Avila Medal of Honor by Sr. Olive Louise, president, in recognition for his fine example and service to the school

A man who has given much to the school, and in whose honor Avila's library room is dedicated, JUDGE HENRY BUNDSCHU has distinguished himself as a person genuinely interested in higher education and in the formation of Christian character. For this reason, he also was awarded the Medal of Honor by Sr. Olive Louise.

Similarly honored was MRS. CATHERIN MERRILL who has contributed to the building of the school's campus and the continuance of Avila's growth in Kansas City.

SISTER DE LA SALLE MCKEON received the medal, Avila's highest honor, for her contributions to the school in the field of music. An accomplished musician in her own right, Sister de la Salle is well known throughout the area for her ability in this respect and for her interest in music as a vital part of college life.

After the presentation of the awards, Bishop Charles H. Helmsing greeted the assembly and extended his congratulations to the recipients.

The program was completed with the presentation of the concert of Sacred Music. The choruses of Avila and Rockhurst College, under the direction of Mr. Edward Deckard, and accompanied by the brass ensemble from the Kansas City Philharmonic, performed "The Christmas Story" by Ron Nelson. Rev. Robert Lakas, S.J. read the narration.

Immediately following the ceremony, refreshments were served and guests were given the opportunity to congratulate the Seniors of 1967 and the four recipients of the Medal of Honor.



This year the Senior Class has redesigned the Senior Keys and Rings as shown above. The former ring, according to the Seniors, was too elaborate and was not in keeping with the simplicity of design now associated with Avila.

A five-year contract was signed with the Herff-Jones Jewelry Company, the terms of which state that the Seniors at Avila will buy their class keys and/or rings from Herff-Jones but can at any time restyle the ring and key.

The newly designed ring is of polish finished, ten karat gold with a black inlaid crest centered on a hexagon mount. The key is of the same hexagonal shape as the center mount of the ring and has the same design. Both this year's key and ring are considerably smaller than last year, in accordance with the students' wishes. The cost of the ring is \$20 and the key costs \$10.

Faculty Notes

Recent happenings on campus or in connection with college events prompt me to write on the subject. As a result of the REQUESTS of the STUDENT BODY last year, several suggestions were implemented with action. Among these, let us mention only a few: (1) at the STUDENTS' request for an open week between semesters so that a ski trip could be scheduled for them, the calendar was so arranged so as to provide this week—the retreat days were even moved from this week; (2) at the STUDENTS' REQUEST in writing, four dress-up dinners were scheduled for the resident students; (3) after much discussion about required assemblies, the STUDENTS voted for and decided upon four assemblies which they requested to be required.

At this time the ski trip has had to be cancelled because there was no student who would commit herself enough to make the necessary down payment; the dress-up dinners are totally and discourteously avoided by quite a number of residents; and the assemblies required have drawn only a small percentage of students – the courtesy of an excuse is not even forthcoming from the absentees.

As Dean of Students, I am wondering where our students' sense of responsibility lies! The freedom for which students asked has been given. Does this mean that courtesy and responsibility and a sense of values leave when freedom is provided? My concern is for those students who do not seem to know how to exercise their freedom with responsibility and who are so busy seeking a greater "challenge" that they have not even yet met that which exists for them presently.

From my observations, it has become clear that those students who are continually asking for activities, for cultural events, etc., are not even aware of those offered on campus, nor are they aware of those that are used by Avila in the Kansas City area. The reason for this conclusion is that these same students are hardly – if ever – seen attending such events.

It might be well to realize that freedom is given each student in order that she may use it responsibly and in an adult manner. What "they say" and what "everybody does" and what "they all think" should be seriously questioned whenever it is heard. These are usually the phrases used by those who need support for their own ideas and often hold little water. Nothing is going to happen to any student—here at Avila or on any other campus—until that student takes hold of herself and makes her own choices and decisions responsibly, freely, and reasonably. No one can MAKE you into what you should be as a responsible and free person—not your friend, your parents, the other students, the faculty, the administrators. YOU must take the ropes into your own hands and make the most of yourself.

I would ask you then to take another look at the choices YOU have made and then not supported. I think it is a mockery to ask for privileges and then not to use them responsibly; it would be far better to have none to live up to.

Sister Marie Georgette

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Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor.

Why can't we ever have a REAL holiday - especially at Christmas? It seems there is always so much to do during the "holidays" that you either work feverishly every chance you get or worry about it until the second of January. I've talked to people who had as many as five papers due after the holidays - fullfledged papers, too, not the five hundred word variety. Granted, some of this work may have been given earlier in the semester. But how many people can actually get a coherent paper written in snatches between daily work, reading, part-time jobs, and a minimum of recreation? You need a block of time to do justice to the task - at least, I do.

A ray of light IS peeping through the darkness of holidays spent at the library or studying in an isolated room, however. This year for the first time we'll have a semester break that is a break. We can thank the ill-fated ski trip for that. To make time for the trip, registration was pushed up and the retreat broken into two days of recollection. Almost everyone except comp-preparing Seniors can honestly enjoy a worryfree, homework-free holiday. My only wish is that we could have two more weeks like this - one at Christmas and one at Easter.

Mixed emotions

Dear Editor:

The catalogue states that: "attendance at all classes and examinations is required." I considered using the words "clearly states" but the truth is that the one sentence outlining class attendance is anything but clear. Can't something be done to clarify it?

I don't want to suggest any return to the old system in force during my freshman year whereby grades were cut according to a certain number of absences. This system was clear, of course, but not very well-liked. When this system was done away with, it seems to me that I heard the phrase "unlimited cuts" mentioned regarding the new system. But as outlined in the catalogue it is definitely very limited.

Class attendance should be the student's responsibility. I have no sympathy for anyone who cuts classes indiscriminately; but I don't feel it's the instructor's job to query student absences or set up their own cut system to handle them.

A Senior

Heidelberg Week Success

For the second consecutive year, the Student Government Association has sponsored "University Week" on our campus. It is hoped that this activity will develop into somewhat of a traditional one, similar to College Night or Key Ceremony. But much work is entailed in such an activity, and it is up to those of us who witnessed the event to decide its worth.

Signaling the official start of Heidelberg Week was the Faculty Christmas Party. Though the idea of this skit was cute enough, it seemed to be more of a student and administration party than a faculty one. Those faculty members who did participate in it were well appreciated by the audience: PETER, PAUL, and MOUNDS (alias MR. TAFF, DR. WETZEL, and MISS EDELMAN) brought down the house with laughter; and, of course, it is always delightful to hear the singing of such professionals as Mr. and Mrs. Meyers. But where were the others — except for the always cooperative administration? The past has proven that much talent remains hidden at Avila, talent which most certainly could have been utilized in this situation.

Guest lecturers were featured throughout the week, and speaking from a qualified standpoint (i.e., having attended all but one lecture) we must admit that each lecture was well worth the forty or fifty minutes time to attend. Each one was pertinent to the intended idea of shedding some light

on the German culture.

DR. RITA WETZEL gave a most interesting talk on one of the more controversial figures of this century: Sigmund Freud, German-born founder of modern psychiatry. The life and works of the German philosopher Georg Hegel, whose ideas influenced such men as Marx, Engels, and Lenin, were explained quite well by SISTER HELEN OLIVER. A lively mathematical talk was presented by SISTER ANN DOMINIC concerning the educational contribution of the German Karl Gauss, whose genius is highly responsible for the development of modern mathematics.

MR. THOMAS WEBSTER explained that one of the important anthropological findings of primitive man was in Heidelberg itself. Tracing the development of the English and German languages, Mr. Thomas Taff showed how the different European languages developed into separate tongues. MR. GEORGE BRYDE, in his inevitably captivating manner, lectured on some of the more recent important German psychologists. And MR. JOSEPH MEYERS, with the aid of SISTER LAURENT, presented an enjoyable program of songs of classical German composers, followed by a talk on the stature of music in Germany today.

Factual accounts and an insight into what is happening politically in Germany right now were given by the German Consul – DR, HERBERT KUHLE, by a German exchange student at Bishop Miege High School – MISS CHRISTINE MUNCH, and by an International Relations Club panel, in three

very enlightening lectures.

Speaking from more personal bases were MRS, URSULA PFAHL, delighting her audience by telling of her experiences as a student at the University of Heidelberg, and JEFF LIND, a senior at Washington High School, who spent this past summer living in Germany under the auspices of the American Field Service. DR. CARLTON SCOFIELD, former Vice-Chancellor of U.M.K.C., told of his personal findings on higher education in contemporary Germany. He explained what he felt were the differences in our educational systems.

Equipped with epee and fencing mask, DR. ENGLER of the University of Kansas Medical Center, told us of fencing fraternities in German uni-

versities and of some of the basics of this sport.

By the above summary, we hoped to show that the quality of the guest speakers was very high and would like to commend those responsible for recruiting them.

We think that the majority of the students made use of our Rathskeller (which could perhaps have been a little less susceptible to the sun's rays). Maybe the coffee drinkers at Avila would like to send a special note of thanks to the Mission Club for their "bar" service.

But what happened to the enforcement of wearing the class caps? Maybe even Hedda Hopper would have winced (no criticism intended toward the Junior millinery department), nonetheless they were colorful while they

Heidelberg Week then was beneficial for those who took advantage of its educational opportunities. Those who will argue against its value will be the same students and faculty members who were at a minimum of lectures and who made no attempt to get with the spirit of this week. The SGA has done its part by providing something for the school and those of us who entered into this activity must now thank them for their efforts.

JAD



EXAM

DOS



If you look as if you just stepped ou the Collegian have a never-fail approach been tried and proven.

Last year it was the Go-Go Look Look, now its the Student Look. We hav you the total Student Look as created by in Women's Wear Daily.

To the left is Miss Sheila Murphy, of the Moline Murphy's, who has just returned from a whirlwind vacation in Moline, Illinois. Miss Murphy lists her interests as French, educational psychology, and cosmotology; and plans a career in her home town in the world-renowned John Deere factory.

We photographed Sheila on safari at Red Bridge's Congo Room, a favorite undergraduate meeting place, where she was wearing (appropriately for Finals Week) an unmatched outfit centering around a neon orange A-line skirt of imported peau-desoie. Sizes 13-23, \$2.07. Her blouse is a red banlon shirt by Fruit of the Loom for H.E.R. Sizes 3-6X, \$1.59. To complete the Student Look, Bonnie Goon imported cashmere kneesocks in brilliant chartreuse. One size fits all, \$50. Skirt, shirt, and socks available at Salvation Army Outlet; Moline, Creve-Coeur, and Pine Bluff. Hairdo by Jones of Hastings - The Harassed Head - very NOW.

A Final Look:

Exams are one of the traditional "necessary evils" of a college career. In as much as they are an established part of American higher education, most students accept them — or drop out of school. But this acceptance is not without questioning and I have some questions to pose and comments to make concerning exams at Avila.

1) Why is the \$5 fee (or more appropriately, penalty) required of a student who must take an exam at a time other than the one scheduled charged to each student regardless of the reason for the re-scheduling? Obviously we need some such rule to guard against meaningless changes by irresponsible students. But couldn't some exceptions be made in

the case of major illness or a family death? From past experience (i.e., re-scheduling due to the funeral of a close relative) I know that the fee must be paid before the exam is taken. But I feel it is unjust to penalize a student for circumstances beyond his control, especially in cases where the only person inconvenienced is the student and not the instructor or administration.

2) In the future, would it be possible to change the format for exam times so that MWF and T-Th class exams will not always occur on the same days as the regular class times? A better distribution of exam days would alleviate the problems of many students who have three or possibly four exams (it has happened!) on one day and almost none



DON'TS

ed out of a bandbox, forget it! We of roach to Exam Week fashion that has

Look, this past fall it was the Minie have spared no expense to bring to ed by Aurelia of Avila and presented

In contrast, is Miss Rita Jane Waters of Saint Joseph and Kansas City who graciously consented to model last year's Combed Look which enjoyed brief popularity on the Avila campus. Notice the outdated, tailored dress that reveals the feminine silhouette; the neatly coiffed hair held gracefully in place with a headband; the glowing complexion with the aura of good health — all of which say DON'T for Exam Week of 1967.

We suggest the Student Look be worn during final exams. It is sure to gain sympathetic recognition by the professor in your flunking field. We have intended that our Look allow you total freedom of identity and still subtly reveal your innermost grade point average.

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Editorial Comment

during the rest of the week. It is especially difficult for students with heavy class loads on either MWF or T-Th and perhaps only one or two classes on the other days. Better spacing of exams would allow more study time for each individual exam and certainly result in less tension for the student who, after six to eight hours of exams, can be a nervous, exhausted wreck.

3) Exams should be a meaningful part of the course work. An arthistory or English exam which requires creative thinking, criticism, and judgment making use of materials and knowledge gained in the course is meaningful. If you can point out the good and bad in a work of art or literary piece and give valid reasons for your judgment, you know you've

really learned something. Mere insertion of bits of information in a totally objective test or skillful and lucky maneuvering of the true-false obstacle course show only that you have a good memory and have mastered the T/F, plus/minus, yes/no techniques.

4) The final point I wish to consider is just how much should the exam grade count? The value of the exam grade is left, as it should be, to the discretion of the instructor. But it seems worthwhile to point out that a more honest judgment can be made from several grades than from one, all-encompassing exam grade.

If you have read through this rather impromptu editorial, thank you for the effort. Just one final question: Any comments?



NEW COURSE IN T.V. OFFERED

Beginning with the second semester students will be able to enroll in a new course called Introduction to Television. A general survey course, it is open especially to students in drama, art, English and business. The course is offered through the cooperation of John Quigley, program director and station manager of KMBC-TV, who is also an Avila board member.

Students will spend Tuesday and Thursday afternoons working in their various interest fields at the KMBC-TV studio. They will also attend a onehour seminar to recount experiences and discuss TV techniques with Sister

M. Felice.

Working in their various interest fields will increase a student's knowledge of their importance in the television industry. However, participants will not remain exclusively in their department choices. By moving from department to department within the studio, students will receive general background knowledge in the operation of a TV station. It is the belief of the originators of the course that all who are engaged in TV work should know and understand all the departments within the station.

As Mr. Quigley stated at a recent Avila assembly "there are many opportunities for women in TV." Drama majors would be interested in all aspects of the studio while perhaps English majors with creative ability may find a job in writing commercials or promotion. An artist is extremely important in setting up stills for a commercial, designing signboards, busboards, and magazine ads. To those in the business field there are openings

as secretaries, typists, and bookkeepers.

Students in this course next semester will truly be able to learn the wires of the TV studio, for they will have the advantage of working in a real situation and preparing for employment after graduation. They will meet the problems day by day that they would not possibly meet even if Avila had its own campus TV station.

Jan. 16-Semester Exams begin Jan. 19-Registration for second semester

CALENDAR

Jan. 20-Registration for second semester continued.

Jan. 21-Rockhurst College Homecoming Dance.

Jan. 23-Semester break begins

Jan. 27-Semester break ends

Jan. 30-Second Semester begins

Feb. 1-Art exhibit of the private collection of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Carstenson begins

Feb. 4-Regional Officers meeting of NFCCS at Avila, from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 13-Jubilee luncheon honoring the sophomores and their mothers, 11:30, Marian Center. Lecture: THE NOVEL, 1:00 p.m., Muntzel Assembly Room. Lecturer: Sister Margaret John.

Feb. 17-Peace Corps will be on campus recruiting.

Feb. 19-Pi Delta Phi initiation, 2:00 p.m., Marian Center.

Feb. 20-Alumnae luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Marian Center. Alumnae Career Panel: Journalism, 1:00, student lounge, Marian Center.

Feb. 24-Pi Delta Phi program, 7:00 p.m., Muntzel Assembly Room, O'Rielly Hall.

Feb. 25-Father-Daughter Jubilee Dinner-Dance, 7:00 to 12:00 p.m., Marian Center.

Rouault Print To Avila

The Avila art department and, indeed, the entire college can thank Mr. Leonard Scheller of Milwaukee for his gift of an original Georges Rouault print, recently received by Sr. Georgiana Marie. Mr. Scheller makes such gifts to schools throughout the country with only two stipulations: 1) the print must be suitably framed under glass, and 2) must be placed "where there is considerable student traffic." His gifts are made solely with the purpose of fostering a greater appreciation of Rouault and his works.

The print, No. 25, of the MISE-RERE ET GUERRE series, executed by the artist between 1916 and 1931 is entitled "Jean-Francois never sings alleluia." The entire work, originally commissioned by Ambroise Vollard whose watermark can be found in the border of the picture. encompasses fifty-eight prints done in aquatint and etching. There is no parallel in twentieth century art to Rouault's accomplishment.

The artist's distinctive style-the strong forms and heavy black lines is evident in the print as in all of his works. The beautiful tones of the black and white print and its theme ("In the joyless world of commercial society, Jean-Francois has neither the strength nor the occasion to sing alleluia.") make the print a meaningful and valuable acquisition for Avila.



French and francophiles: 1. to r., Linda Davin, Mr. and Mrs. Meyers, Sr. Rita Agnes, Mary Jo Javorek, Jane Waters.

Pi Delta Phi, the French honor society, held its annual reception the afternoon of January 1. It was a small gathering but most enjoyable. Many of the society's members are working or studying in cities all over the world, or are no longer living in the Kansas City area and were not able to attend. Mr. and Mrs. Meyers were special guests. Two of the "older" members who came were Joan Banfield who recently spent two years in the Peace Corps and is now studying at the U. of Wisconsin; and Virginia Nelson, an Extension Lay Volunteer teaching in Texas.

Y.C.S. FLANNED

by Mary Aylward

Here at Avila, there have been letters written to the editor, complaints from faculty and discussions in the Union concerning apathy on campus. Some of us are tired of sitting in on mere discussion and want to do something about it. Our attempt at action is starting a Y.C.S. (Young

Christian Students).

Y.C.S. suggests a logical and dynamic approach to solving problems on the college campus. A single problem is put under the heading of a "social inquiry". The members go out and observe other student's opinions, discussing the problem with them, hopefully getting a cross-section of opinion from the entire student body. The insights are brought back to the meeting and a discussion of a Christian, practical approach takes place, using scripture as a guideline. After this the group decides on an "action," the action (depending on the problem, of course) can range from working on changing our own attitude on an issue to working on changing an inadequate system.

Does it sound idealistic, improbable? Perhaps, but it IS an attempt. If you're willing to make an attempt and not afraid of committing yourself to something other than yourself, come to the first meeting to be held February 1, at 6:30 in the Union. Faculty, of course, are welcome to come hear us out and ask questions.

STUDENT SERVICE

by Mrs. Genny Lambert College Placement Officer

Since the New Year brings forth a beginning of many things, so Avila College has a new offering for students – that of a placement service to cover all departments. Avila is now a member of the Rocky Mountain Placement Association, one of eight associations comprising the College Placement Council, Inc. Once we become actively engaged in the procedures of this organization, we will be able to serve you more efficiently and on a broader scale. Progress will, of course, depend upon the response we have to this service.

We are already receiving brochures and flyers from many colleges, governmental agencies, businesses, etc., regarding offerings available not only to graduates, but some fine opportunities for students still working on the Bachelor's. We have several catalogs covering summer jobs, both in the U.S. and in

foreign countries.

You may stop in the Education Department office and inquire concerning any area in which you are interested. If the information is not readily available, every effort will be made to obtain it. For students graduating this year who plan to enter business rather than the teaching profession, it might be possible to arrange interviews through our arrangement with the UMKC placement service. Those interested in this phase of the service should contact me immediately. The companies that go to the UMKC campus will be starting their interviews February 1, and the pertinent information should be in their hands as soon as possible.

The campus placement office is open Monday through Friday, 9:30

a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Premiere Date Set

The date of the premiere of HA-WAII is February 21st. Plans for extensive advertising are being made, including a Hawaii Day on which everyone will come to school dressed Hawaiian style. With the co-operation of the students, this should be a successful, entertaining and profitable enterprise.

The movie is adapted from the Michener novel. It is the story of Hale (Max von Sydow), a God-fearing but life-hating missionary who, with his wife (Julie Andrews), travels to Hawaii to convert the natives, but succeeds in destroying the souls he came to save.

Candlelight And Gold

Amidst "Candlelight and Gold" Avila socialites and their escorts danced Saturday evening, January 7, to the strains of the Frankie Kay orchestra. Presented by the Sophomore Class, the dance was also dubbed the Jubilee Ball in honor of Avila's 50th year. The grand ballroom at the Continental Hotel was the scene of the dance.

The high-light of the dance came around mid-evening when the dancers were seated to await the presentation of the Queen and her Court. Sophomore Pam Shanks was crowned Queen of the Jubilee Ball by Ann Faughnan, queen of the Christmas Dance last year. The first attendant was Miss Mary Ellen King, freshman, and Pat Bartholome, junior, was second attendant. Miss Jill Hel-



L. to R., Jill Helgerson, Pam Shanks, Pat Bartholome, and Ellen King.

gerson, senior, was the third attendant.

Selection of a Queen candidate was made in each class prior to the dance and each bid sold represented a vote for the candidate of the buyer's class. Percentages were then used to determine the Queen and her attendants.

Chaperonage was ample with many sophomore parents attending including: Mr. and Mrs. Colombo, Connealy, Shanks, Paradoski, Sulli-

van, Taylor, and Waris.

Refreshments included fruit punch and nuts and mints. Heading the refreshment committee was Kathy Paradoski. Gold bids dangling small white pencils were designed by a committee under the leadership of Sue Colombo. The decoration committee, chaired by Susie Sullivan, placed small candles on the tables and featured a flower centerpiece on the punch table.

Among the spectators were members of both the faculty and administration including: Sr. Olive Louise, Sr. Martha Mary, and Sr. Helen Lucille; Mr. and Mrs. Bryde, Miss Soptick, and Mr. and Mrs. John Duncan. Mr. Duncan taught in the education department last year and also in the laboratory class for the mentally retarded.

What Others Are Saying

The following comments were made by student leaders at San Francisco State College and appeared in the December 21, 1966 issue of "The Chronicle of Higher Education." They should prove interesting to both students and faculty as a reflection of thought on another college campus, different in size and structure from Avila and, yet, with the same problems facing higher education all over America.

"We are beginning to come into a serious dialogue on what teaching is all about; we are coming into a dialogue about how you set up a learning environment which allows people to learn at their own rate rather than set up a reward and punishment system which forces people to memorize data which they regurgitate at appropriate times on things called exams."

"Within a group, each individual has to take his own responsibility for what he wants to learn. If I'm going to become educated, it's my respon-

sibility."

"It seems to me that the purpose of an educational institution should be to aid and support the learning process. It also seems to me that most educational institutions fail both to help one collect appropriate information, and to help one deal with the information received."

"We must change institutions so that they allow, aid, and in fact encourage students to be involved in the creation of knowledge. To refuse to let students do that is to say that they do not have useful experiences. that they do not learn from their experiences, and that they do not have information and insight to share from their experiences. To say this is to say that students are not alive. dynamic human beings, but only empty, dead receptacles that need to be filled. I think that some people in educational institutions actually believe this. Others don't, but they act as if they do. Our job is to correct this."

Dr. Martin Niemoller will be on the Avila campus Thursday, February 23. Dr. Niemoller, who led protests against the Nazis and spent eight years in a concentration camp during World War II, has been instrumental in the ecumenical movement in Germany and Europe. His week-long visit in Kansas City is being co-sponsored by the Country Club Christian Church and Bishop Helmsing.

The Fifth Column

by Ann Linton

In keeping with our emphasis on fashion in this issue, it seems that a weighty discussion on fat is in order. The days of comfortable fat are over in our current civilization; and it seems a shame. Of course, the metaphysical description of fat still applies in a few cases. "Fat is relative to the onlooker." But thanks to Paul Dudley White and VOGUE, this frame of reference is fast being rejected except by the very overweight members of TOPS. To a typical TOPS member even after taking off tons of sensible pounds (e.g., Miss Rosie Humphrey, age 42, comes from a fat line of big-boned eaters, height 6'1"-total weight reduction 120 lbs., present weight 330 pounds) anyone looks thin.

The fetish of being thin has affected more than our appearance. The heyday of the thin mind has arrived. (I could quote from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" but quotations make for fat, interesting thoughts.) Everything, including conversation, has been stripped down to its minimum caloric content; there doesn't seem to be time anymore for lazy, pointless non-activity. Adjectives, like carbohydrates, should be avoided, every statement uttered should be direct, packed full of philosophical content, and ready for publication. People mentally underline only the important of what we say and then rush on to others searching for more "pearls of wisdom" (fatty, outdated cliche). Modern man wants the real meaning of life condensed into a dietic statement of no more than twenty-five words. In the past many lucid insights into the world and people have come from people sitting on porch swings on sluggish summer afternoons. The Avila lounge offers a perfect location for such creative insights, but who wants to make an appointment with intellectual peers to discuss the key concepts of "truth" from 8:30 to 9:20? I don't.

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